

§ 845.21

- (a) To designate parties to the hearing and revoke such designations;
- (b) To open, continue, or adjourn the hearing;
- (c) To determine the admissibility of and to receive evidence and to regulate the course of the hearing;
- (d) To dispose of procedural requests or similar matters; and
- (e) To take any other action necessary or incident to the orderly conduct of the hearing.

[44 FR 34419, June 14, 1979; 44 FR 39181, July 5, 1979]

§ 845.21 Hearing officer.

The hearing officer, upon designation by the Chairman of the Board, shall have the following powers:

- (a) To give notice concerning the time and place of hearing;
- (b) To administer oaths and affirmations to witnesses; and
- (c) To issue subpoenas requiring the attendance and testimony of witnesses and production of documents.

§ 845.22 Technical panel.

The Director, Bureau of Accident Investigation, or the Director, Bureau of Field Operations, shall designate members of the Board's technical staff to participate in the hearing and initially develop the testimony of witnesses.

[49 FR 32853, Aug. 17, 1984]

§ 845.23 Prehearing conference.

(a) Except as provided in paragraph (d) of this section for expedited hearings, the chairman of the board of inquiry shall hold a prehearing conference with the parties to the hearing at a convenient time and place prior to the hearing. At such prehearing conference, the parties shall be advised of the witnesses to be called at the hearing, the areas in which they will be examined, and the exhibits which will be offered in evidence.

(b) Parties shall submit at the prehearing conference copies of any additional documentary exhibits they desire to offer. (Copies of all exhibits proposed for admission by the board of inquiry and the parties shall be furnished to the board of inquiry and to all parties, insofar as available at that time.)

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(c) A party who, at the time of the prehearing conference, fails to advise the chairman of the board of inquiry of additional exhibits he intends to submit, or additional witnesses he desires to examine, shall be precluded from introducing such evidence unless the chairman of the board of inquiry determines for good cause shown that such evidence should be admitted.

(d) *Expedited hearings.* When time permits, the chairman of the board of inquiry may hold a prehearing conference. In the event that an expedited hearing is held, the requirements in paragraphs (b) and (c) of this section concerning the identification of witnesses, exhibits or other evidence may be waived by the chairman of the board of inquiry.

§ 845.24 Right of representation.

Any person who appears to testify at a public hearing shall be accorded the right to be accompanied, represented, or advised by counsel or by any other duly qualified representative.

§ 845.25 Examination of witnesses.

(a) Witnesses shall be initially examined by the board of inquiry or its technical panel. Following such examination, parties to the hearing shall be given the opportunity to examine such witnesses.

(b) Materiality, relevancy, and competency of witness testimony, exhibits, or physical evidence shall not be the subject of objections in the legal sense by a party to the hearing or any other person. Such matters shall be controlled by rulings of the chairman of the board of inquiry on his own motion. If the examination of a witness by a party is interrupted by a ruling of the chairman of the board of inquiry, opportunity shall be given to show materiality, relevancy, or competency of the testimony or evidence sought to be elicited from the witness.

§ 845.26 Evidence.

The chairman of the board of inquiry shall receive all testimony and evidence which may be of aid in determining the cause of accident. He may exclude any testimony or exhibits which are not pertinent to the investigation or are merely cumulative.